(*f*).—Exploitation of Minor Forest Produce.

(1).—*Extraction of Fodder.*

89. Wherever there was a demand the grass of the reserves was sold standing and removed by the purchasers throughout the Circle, but the demand for the cut fodder from forest is nowhere great and the whole revenue from this source was only Rs. 19,677.

(2).—*Grazing.*

90. No trustworthy statistics of cattle grazed free and on payment of fee are available, nor can be until the grazing rules are made uniformly applicable to the whole Circle. The Divisional Forest Officers of East and West Thána agree in reporting that concessions of free grazing are too freely made by village officers, and even where the rules are in force they are too liberally construed. The result is a paltry revenue of Rs. 8,979 for the whole Circle and of Rs. 4,224 only for the two Thána divisions. The value of the revenue conceded it is impossible to calculate, but the amount mentioned in paragraph 145 of last year's report is certainly not an exaggeration.

(3).—*Miscellaneous Produce.*

91. The miscellaneous products exploited for sale from the forests of the Northern Circle are of no great moment. There is a little hirda (Terminalia chebula) in East Thána; but the concession of the right to hirda in occupied lands makes its exploitation most difficult owing to the facilities for theft thus caused. Hirda has been hitherto collected departmentally, but this year the farm was sold.

92. There is a certain demand in Bombay for leaves of apta (Bauhinia racemosa) for smoking and of Borassus flabelliformis for thatching, and these were farmed in the two Thána divisions. The collection of moho (Bassia latifolia) flowers is farmed in the Surat Division and the revenue may develope, but is small at present.

CHAPTER III.

GROSS YIELD AND OUTTURN OF FOREST PRODUCE.

DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS.

93. Timber and firewood was worked out during the year as follows :—

No.	Division.	Year.	In Cubic Feet.	
			Timber.	Firewood.
1	East Thána	1892-93	32,550	20,376
		1893-94	3,351	1,106
2	West Thána	1892-93	1,245	4,714
		1893-94	2,423	9,255
3	Surat...	1892-93	77,685	.....
		1893-94	62,523	.....
4	Panch Mahals	1892-93	4,070	10,700
		1893-94	3,710	11,375
	Total ...	1892-93	1,15,550	35,790
		1893-94	72,007	21,736

94. The chief difference from last year is in Thána where it was only found necessary to work one coupe departmentally owing to the satisfactory sale of the remainder.

95. As last year an abstract of the details given in Form 59 is given below :—

No.	Division.	Balance on 1st July 1893.			Outturn of the year.			Total of Columns 5 and 8.	Disposed of during the year.			Balance on 30th June 1894.		
		Timber.	Fire-wood.	Total.	Timber.	Fire-wood.	Total.		Timber.	Fire-wood.	Total.	Timber.	Fire-wood.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.
1	East Thána	..	..	..	3,351	1,106	4,457	4,477	3,279	1,106	4,385	72	..	72
2	West Thána	1,344	2,250	3,594	2,423	9,255	11,678	15,272	1,842	11,405	13,247	1,925	100	2,025
3	Surat	3,707	..	3,707	62,523	..	62,523	66,230	44,347	..	44,347	21,883	..	21,883
4	Panch Mahâls	820	2,300	3,120	3,710	11,375	15,085	18,205	3,744	8,320	12,064	786	5,355	6,141
	Total ..	5,871	4,550	10,421	72,007	21,736	93,743	104,184	53,212	20,831	74,043	24,666	5,455	30,121

96. The only figure in the above calling for remark is the large balance in Surat at the close of the year which represents the stock in the Wágrech Sale Depôt near Billimora, Surat District, consisting of wood brought for sale from the Dángs.

REMOVAL OF PRODUCE BY PURCHASERS.

Timber and Firewood.

97. The exploitation of major produce by contractors under the Thána working scheme compared with that of 1892-93 was as follows :—

No.	Division.	Coupes exploited.							
		1892-93.				1893-94.			
		Number.	Area.	Receipts.	Average price per Acre.	Number.	Area.	Receipts.	Average Price per Acre.
				Rs.				Rs.	
1	East Thána ...	85	4,711¼	92,551	19·4	146	8,029½	1,89,316	23·6
2	West Thána ...	140	7,321¼	2,62,253	35·8	124	6,450	2,69,238	41·8
	Total ...	225	12,032¾	3,54,804	29·5	270	14,479½	4,58,554	31·7

98. The rise in the sale rate per acre in both divisions is most satisfactory, especially when it is remembered that, as recorded elsewhere in this report, more than 20 of the coupes exploited this year were coupes for which no sale could be found in past years.

99. The gross produce yield of the coupes worked is estimated by the Divisional Forest Officers as follows :—

No.	Division.	Timber in Cubic Feet.		Firewood, including Charcoal, in Cubic feet.
		Teak.	Jungle-wood.	
1	East Thána	1,061,071	530,536	2,027,885
2	West Thána	1,149,958	489,916	1,841,200
	Total, 1893-94 ...	2,211,029	1,020,452	3,869,085
	Total, 1892-93 ...	1,660,165	943,487	3,616,843

100. This estimate, however, does not include the small branchage and dead wood which under concession of Government are removed by the local villagers. The amount of this small wood cannot be estimated, there being absolutely no data. A guess last year put it at 600,000 cubic feet. I should think this was rather under than over the mark.

101. The timber and firewood removed by purchasers in Surat was as follows:—

Year.	Timber.	Firewood.
	Cubic ft.	Cubic ft.
1892-93	68,690	30,739
1893-94	71,634	14,822

102. The whole of this timber was practically from the Dángs, less than 5,000 cubic feet being obtained in the rest of the Division, and of this 5,000 nearly 3,000 cubic feet came from the Mándvi Range. On the other hand the bulk of the 14,822 cubic feet of firewood came from Mándvi, only about 5,000 being exploited in the Dángs.

103. In the Panch Maháls the year's working compares with that of last year as follows:—

Year.	Timber.	Firewood.
	Cubic ft.	Cubic ft.
1892-93	208,068	242,281
1893-94	195,245	415,696

104. As last year the timber shown as exploited is the produce of Government land outside forest.

Bamboos.

105. The yield of bamboos is given in the following table:—

No.	Division.	Bamboos removed, 1892-93.				Bamboos removed, 1893-94.			
		Cart-loads.	Head-loads.	Number.	Amount realized.	Cart-loads.	Head-loads.	Number.	Amount realized.
					Rs.				Rs.
1	East Thána	1,086	6,386	288,673	9,004	40	7	228,890	815
2	West Thána	8,655	5,525	2,027,223	12,705	7,166	2,451	2,332,393	18,127
3	Surat	...	...	1,136,155	25,354	...	...	901,558	25,474
4	Panch Maháls ...	193	...	217,272	2,899	135	...	117,051	1,484
	Total ...	9,934	11,911	3,669,323	49,972	7,341	2,458	3,579,892	45,900

Minor Produce.

106. The following comparative statement gives the yield of minor produce for the year:—

Number.	Division.—	1892-93.	1893-94.
1	East Thána	655	2,747
2	West Thána	2,475	2,436
3	Surat	2,103	2,162
4	Panch Maháls	2,371	583
	Total Rs. ...	7,604	7,928

FREE GRANTS OF FOREST PRODUCE.

107. The free grants of timber, &c., made under the authority of the Commissioner during the year, as compared with those of last year, are given below :—

Number.	Division.	1892-93.			1893-94.		
		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
1	East Thána	378	8	0	1,618	0	0
2	West Thána	49	12	0	30	0	0
3	Surat	703	0	0	473	0	0
4	Panch Mahals... ...	729	4	0	836	0	0
	Total ...	1,860	8	0	2,957	0	0

108. The large increase in East Thána is probably due to a grant made to the villagers of Dughád in the Bhiwndi Range whose houses were destroyed by fire.

CHAPTER IV.

FINANCIAL RESULTS.

109. The financial results of the year under report are a record. Last year Mr. Dasái considered them satisfactory though the gross receipts and net revenue were respectively less by Rs. 2,000 and 5,000 than those of 1890-91. During 1893-94 they are greater than the figures of 1890-91 by just over and just under 1¼ lákhs of rupees respectively.

110. The following statement gives the details by main heads of revenue and expenditure for 1892-93 and 1893-94 :—

Budget Main Heads.	1892-93.			1893-94.		
RECEIPTS.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
I	50,554	2	9	26,602	7	1
II	5,67,576	14	8	6,75,989	11	10
III	2,071	6	2	3,089	0	3
IV	1,569	4	2	36,709	15	11
V	13,676	14	5	18,562	10	4
Total, Receipts ...	6,35,448	10	2	7,60,953	13	5
Expenditure.						
A.—Conservancy and Works.						
A.—I	7,692	5	5	17,662	1	3
A.—II	12,040	1	0	12,366	8	6
A.—III	57	7	0	103	2	11
A.—IV	.....			.....		
A.—V	16,963	4	6	15,780	9	2
A.—VI	1,303	12	6	490	10	9
A.—VII	4,136	4	1	7,327	8	0
A.—VIII	70,783	2	4	38,473	9	10
A.—IX	762	8	2	5,842	10	10
Total, A—Conservancy and Works ...	1,14,008	13	0	98,046	13	3
B.—Establishments.						
B.—I	1,30,544	2	9	1,39,194	10	2
B.—II	18,889	14	1	20,522	14	7
B.—III	5,843	9	1	7,182	2	0
Total, B.—Establishments...	1,55,277	9	11	1,66,899	10	9
Grand Total, Expenditure...	2,69,286	6	11	2,64,946	8	0
Net Revenue ...	3,66,162	3	3	4,96,007	5	5